

# California Behavioral Health Planning Council

## Legislation Committee

### Meeting Summary

Thursday, May 18, 2023  
9:00 am to 10:30 am

#### Members Present:

Veronica Kelley, Chairperson

Karen Baylor

Stephanie Blake

Monica Caffey

Erin Franco

Steve Leoni

Noel O'Neill

Darlene Prettyman

Daphne Shaw

Tony Vartan

Uma Zykofsky

#### Meeting Commenced at 9:00 a.m.

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#### Item #1

#### MHSA Modernization Overview

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Michelle Cabrera, Executive Director, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) presented an overview on the Governor's Behavioral Health Reform Proposal.

The first component is to Modernize the MHSA through the 2024 ballot. The theme is around the need to update the Act and prioritizes spending for the most vulnerable populations, including the unhoused. A new minimum funding requirement for housing is included and the use of MHSA is expanded to include Substance Use Disorder (SUD) only diagnoses/treatment. As a result of the minimum funding requirement for housing, the new funding categories are: 30% Housing; 35% Full Service Partnerships (FSPs); 35% Other, which includes only 10% is for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI); and 5% for Workforce Education and Training (WET). Innovation funds are proposed to be eliminated. The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is proposed to be moved under the Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency. As a result, the Executive director of the MMHSOAC would be a Gubernatorial Appointee.

Secondly, it includes the Statewide Enhancement of Fiscal Transparency for the County Behavioral Health System and the Exploration of Commercial Plan Accountability. This component is intended to align county Behavioral Health plans (including MHPs and DMC-ODS) and Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan contract requirements when the same requirements exist across programs and to achieve Parity.

Lastly, a General Obligation Bond of \$3-\$5 billion is included in the 2024 ballot to fund unlocked community behavioral health residential settings including for homeless vets.

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Since the initial announcement, a new workforce priority has been added, “vulnerable population” has been defined, and there have been suggestions that the housing component could include some services. Additionally, it has been disclosed that phased implementation will start in July 2025.

Michelle highlighted that funding is needed for both housing and treatment services, as well as separate funding is needed for SUD services. She also discussed how crucial MHSA is as a source of non-federal share for Medi-Cal. CBHDA is currently analyzing the impacts across counties to gain a better understanding of the programs that will be cut because of the proposal.

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#### **Item #4**                      **MHSA Modernization Discussion**

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Tony Vartan facilitated a discussion with the committee members about the proposal. Members shared concerns about the services and programs that will be cut, the requirement to spend 30% on housing, and the need for state-level accountability to address the root problem of homelessness.

The committee suggested that the Council plan stakeholder engagement discussions. These “Townhall” style meetings will serve as an opportunity for the Council to ensure the community is informed, as well as to hear feedback and input. The information can be used to determine the advocacy efforts of the Council.

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#### **Item #2**                      **Public Comment**

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Stacie Hiramoto, Racial & Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO), expressed her gratitude for the information provided in Michelle’s presentation. She also agreed with the Council’s idea to get community input.

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#### **Item #3**                      **Legislative Review**

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The committee did not take any legislative positions.

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#### **Item #4**                      **Next Steps**

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The committee will discuss the planning of stakeholder engagement discussions at the June meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.**